

Naoya Hatakeyama “Underground / Water”

Dates: 10 March – 23 April

Location: Taka Ishii Gallery Photography Paris

Opening reception : Thursday, March 10, 18:00 - 21:00

Taka Ishii Gallery Photography Paris is proud to present “Underground / Water”, its first exhibition with photographer Naoya Hatakeyama.

Since the eighties, the Japanese photographer has been developing a body of work mainly focused on an architectural and landscaped vision of Nature, influenced by his interest in science and archeology of the city.

Drawing, as always, inspiration for new work from his past photographs, he finds himself guided from one place to the next by his series, in successive steps. From the first pictures in limestone mines (“Lime Hills”, 1986 — 1991) to the underground infrastructures of Tokyo, he casts the same poetic and meticulous look at sites where men and civilization are showcased.

“Underground / Water”, 1999, is one of the artist's most celebrated series. It has regularly been displayed in museums and institutions, such as the Kunstverein Hannover (Germany) or recently at the Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire (France). In this series, Naoya Hatakeyama further develops a photographic approach he initiated a few years earlier, on the city of Tokyo. In a panorama of square format snapshots, this work presents the polluted, stagnant waters of the city sewers. Organic waste and various iron particles give wastewater an amalgamation of shapes and colors. Lit for the first time under the photographer's torchlight, it emerges from its usual shroud of darkness.

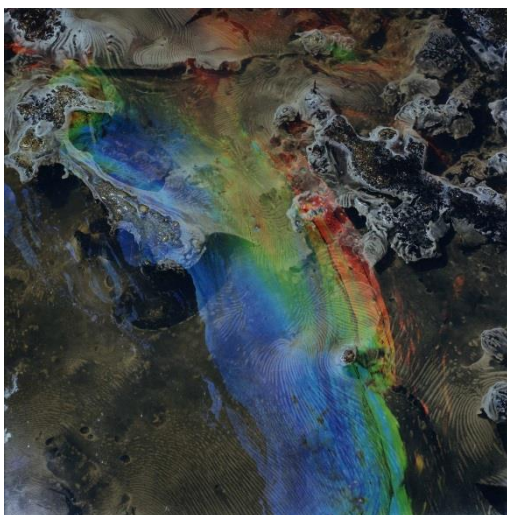
Underground. It's always pitch black. Even if the light I bring in with me produces some kind of form or coloration, this is inconsequential to whatever exists in the subterranean world. When the light fades, the form and coloration of things dissolve like a phantom. Things in the underground world exist in utter darkness, oblivious to the light and sense of vision of the overground world. They are concerned exclusively with watching and being watched. Incidentally, isn't it true that “nature” is another of these things that are wholly uninterested in “human beings”? If this is so, the water flowing in the pitch black underground and the tiny organisms that live there are doubly unconcerned with “human beings” and are thus doubly “nature.” Such places are unimaginably far away from “human beings” even if hundreds of thousands of people are walking around right above.

Naoya Hatakeyama

Excerpted from a conference held at Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Paris,
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For more information:

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Mardi — Samedi 12h -19h



Naoya Hatakeyama
“Underground / Water #4809”
1999
C-print
110 x 110 cm
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Naoya Hatakeyama
“Underground / Water #6607”, 1999
C-print
110 x 110 cm
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